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a job distributor having a single RIP engine for receiving said multiple page documents and generating therefrom rasterized page data and providing said rasterized page data organized for parallel distribution to said inputs of selected different ones of said plurality of physical print engines according to print job parameters associated with said rasterized data.

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18. (Amended) A multiple print engine for printing a multiple page document input as a single print job, comprising:

a plurality of physical print engines, each having an input for rasterized data and an output bin for receiving printed output pages;

5 a processor for receiving said multiple page document, rasterizing it into rasterized images and storing said rasterized images in association with information regarding final rendering thereof, each said rasterized image comprising a page of said single print job;

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10 an image task manager for retrieving the rasterized image for said print job from said processor and determining a print order for each said page of said print job according to said information associated with said rasterized images; and

an engine manager for selecting a one physical print engine to print each retrieved rasterized image according to said print order and distributing said image to said select one of said physical print engines according to said print order.

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Office Action dated May 4, 2000. Applicants have amended Claims 5 and 18 to more clearly point out the present inventive concept. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Claims 5-13, 15-23 and 25-27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Berry et al* in view of *Matias*. This rejection is respectfully traversed with respect to the amended claims.

Applicants' present invention, as defined by the amended claims, is directed toward a system that is operable to utilize a plurality of print engine with a job distributed therebetween. However, it is noted that this job is distributed after ripping *and* in accordance with print job parameters that are associated with the rasterized data. Therefore, the data, after rasterization, has information associated therewith that is utilized to determine the distribution operation.

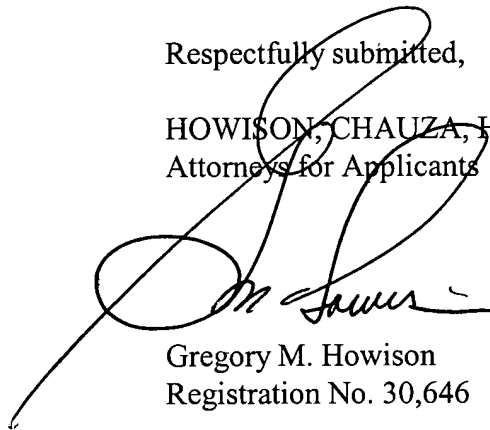
The *Barry et al* reference does not distribute pages after ripping. Therefore, this does not anticipate Claim 5 or Claim 18, the independent claims of the present invention. The job distribution, as set forth in the amended claims, allows pages within a multiple print job to be distributed, even within a single job. The *Barry et al* reference does not allow such an operation, nor does the *Matias* reference cure this deficiency, in that the *Matias* reference buffers the information *after* it has been ripped and/or scanned. Therefore, even though there are multiple print engines, each print engine must have the information distributed thereto for printing. The only reason for buffering this information is to provide buffering, on the first hand, and the ability to reprint the information due to a jam or for multiple copies. However, neither *Barry et al* nor *Matias* describe any type of distribution based upon print job parameters that are associated with the rasterized data after the ripping operation. The *Berry et al* reference distributes the original job in accordance with parameters associated with the job, rather than that associated with the rasterized image. Therefore, Applicants believe that neither *Barry et al* nor *Matias*, taken singularly or in combination, render Applicants' present invention or concept obvious or unpatentable. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of 35 U.S.C. §103(a) restriction with respects to Claims 5-13, 15-23 and 25-27.

Applicants notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that Claims 14 and 24 would be allowable if rewritten to include the limitations of the base claims. Now, Applicant believes that, in view of the above arguments, that the amended claims distinguish over the *Barry et al* and *Matias* references.

Applicants have now made an earnest attempt in order to place this case in condition for allowance. For the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of the claims as amended. Please charge any additional fees or deficiencies in fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-0780/TRSY-23,677 of HOWISON, CHAUZA, HANDLEY & ARNOTT, L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Howison', is written over the typed name and firm name.

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